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SERIES A

DOCUMENT A 2-27/88

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs
Committee

on the fixing of the date of the 1989 European
elections

Rapporteur: Mr KLEPSCH

EN(88)0734E

PE 121.279/fin.

A Series: Reports - B series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions, Written Declarations, etc. - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)



= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading



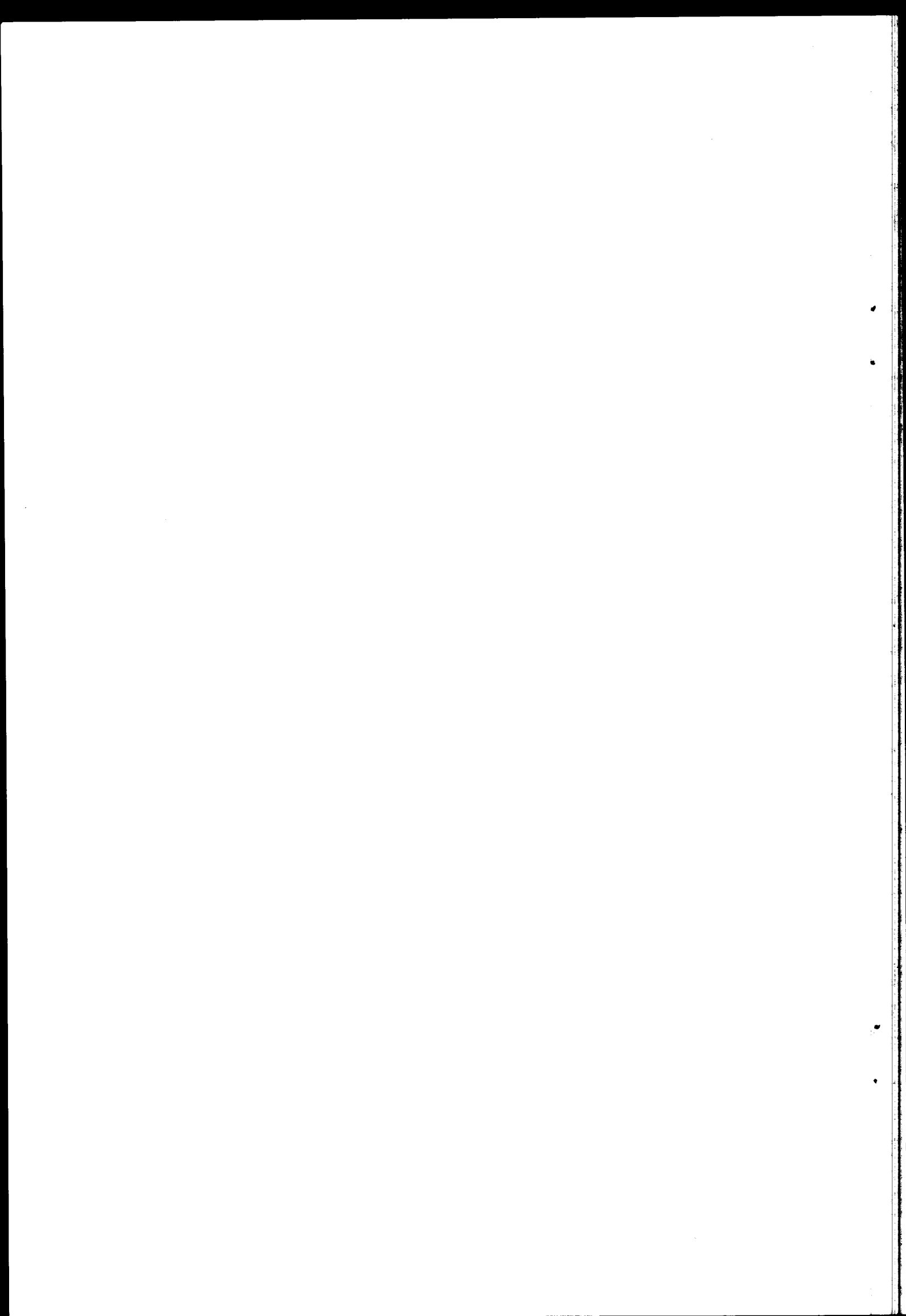
= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of the majority of the Members of Parliament



= Cooperation procedure (first reading)



= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of the majority of the current Members of Parliament



At its plenary sitting of 6 July 1987 the European Parliament referred the motion for resolution tabled by Mr Coste-Floret and others pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure on the date of the 1989 European elections (Doc. B 2-491/87) to the Political Affairs Committee.

At its meeting of 1 October 1987 the Political Affairs Committee decided to draw up a report. At its meeting of 27 January 1988 it appointed Mr Klepsch rapporteur.

At its meetings of 25 January, 23 February and 23 March 1988 the committee considered the draft report.

The committee adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole on 23 March 1988.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Planas (acting chairman); Mr Klepsch (rapporteur); Mr Santana Lopes (2nd vice-chairman); Sir Peter Vanneck (3rd vice-chairman); Mr Baillot (deputizing for Mr Piquet), Mr Bocklet (deputizing for Mr Blumenfeld), Mr Cassidy (deputizing for Lord Bethell), Mrs Charzat, Mr Coste-Floret, Mr Croux (deputizing for Mr Penders), Mr de Gucht, Mr Eyraud (deputizing for Mr Jospin), Mr Fitzgerald (deputizing for Mr Flanagan), Mr Gama (deputizing for Mr Estgen), Mr Habsburg, Mr Hansch, Mrs van den Heuvel, Mr van der Lek, Mrs Lenz, Mr Medina Ortega, Mr Miranda da Silva, Mr Perez Royo (deputizing for Mr Moran Lopez), Mr Morodo Leoncio, Mr Newens, Mr Pelikan (deputizing for Mr Zagari), Mr Pflimlin, Mr Plaskovitis, Mr Prag (deputizing for Lord Douro), Mr Staes (deputizing for Mr von Uexkull), Mr Topmann (deputizing for Mr Ford), Mr Tzounis, Mr wedeking (deputizing for Mr Poettering), Mr welsh and Mr Zarges (deputizing for Mr Iodice).

The report was tabled on 25 March 1988.

The deadline for tabling amendments to the report will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which it is to be considered.

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A

The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

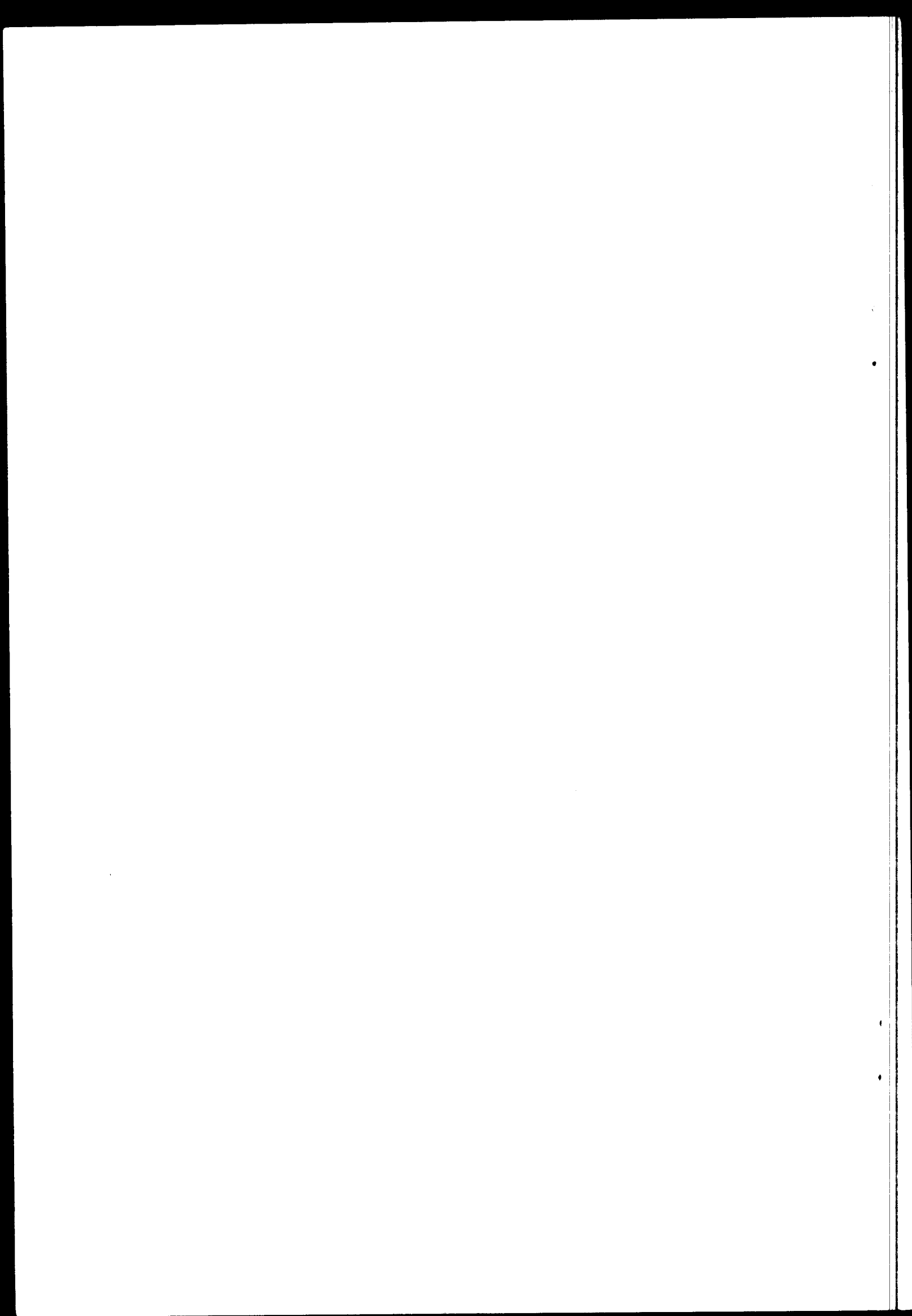
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the fixing of the date for the 1989 European elections

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr COSTE-FLORET and others on the date of the 1989 European elections (Doc. B 2-491/87),
- having regard to the report of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. A 2-27/88),
- A. whereas the choice of election period should conform with the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the Act of the Council of 20 September 1976(1),
- B. convinced that it is necessary to take a decision on the fixing of the date for the 1989 European elections at the earliest opportunity in order to allow proper preparation of these elections,
- C. whereas it is necessary to fix the date of the 1989 European elections at a time which will encourage a large turnout by European voters,
- D. having regard to national and regional electoral traditions in the Member States and the practical problems they pose with regard to the holding of the next elections to the European Parliament,
- 1. Considers that the third European Parliament election by direct universal suffrage should be held in the period 8-11 June 1989 and asks the Council to adopt this recommendation;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments and Governments of the Member States.

(1) OJ No. L 278, 8.10.1976



B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In view of the national election laws, the dates for the third direct European elections have to be laid down as soon as possible so as to give all concerned the opportunity to make appropriate preparations: the European Parliament is therefore submitting its proposal for the election dates in an own-initiative resolution.

The European Parliament is proposing to the Council of Ministers that the third direct European elections be held on 8 and 11 June 1989.

In two European countries the last direct elections were held at the same time as the national parliamentary elections; in Luxembourg this was already the second time this had happened. Under Article 105 of the Luxembourg electoral law, parliamentary elections must be held on the first Sunday in June, but the Luxembourg Parliament and Government would probably be prepared to accept a week's postponement so that elections can again be held simultaneously. In view of the timing of past parliamentary elections, the new parliamentary elections in Greece must be held by 18 June 1989 at the latest, but they can of course be held at any time before that. It should then be possible for the Greek Parliament to accept 11 June as the date for the European direct elections. In the Federal Republic of Germany, the 'Lander' of Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz both held their last two municipal elections on the same day as the European direct elections and intend to do the same in June 1989.

The dates do not coincide with any public holidays which might stop the elections being held then. It is also of importance for the fixing of the election days - it is assumed that the voting will take place as before on the Thursday and the Sunday - to bear in mind that local elections will be held in the United Kingdom in May and it is of course hoped that this date will be as distant as possible from the date of the European elections. In the case of the Federal Republic of Germany there is the problem that the holiday period in much of the country will in practice start on 16 June in consequence of the fact that 17 June is a public holiday.

After weighing up all the circumstances, the best possible compromise solution seems to be to hold the elections on 8 and 11 June, since these dates take account, more or less, of all objections.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc. B 2-491/87)
tabled pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr COSTE-FLORET, Mr PRAG, Mr BLUMENFELD and Mr CAMPINOS
on the date of the 1989 European elections

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the Act of 20 September 1976, in particular Articles 3, 9 and 10 thereof,
- B. whereas it is necessary to hold the 1989 European elections at a time that will ensure the best possible turnout of European voters,
 - 1. Calls on the Council to consult the European Parliament at the earliest opportunity on the date of the election by direct universal suffrage of the Members of the European Parliament in 1989;
 - 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

